

Marking the U.S. Forest Service Centennial 1905-2005



Letter written by first Chippewa National Forest (Minnesota National Forest) Supervisor Eugene Bruce to Forest Service Chief Gifford Pinchot in 1907...

> Washington D.C. June 29, 1907

Mr. Gifford Pinchot Forester, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to submit a report of the result of my examination and inspection of the logging operations and work done on the Minnesota National Forest during the season of 1906-1907. All the purchases and contractors had operated on the territory selected to constitute the Minnesota National Forest during the season of 1905-1906, and were, therefore, familiar with our Rules and Regulations. Previous experience had thoroughly convinced the contractors that the most economical method of burning the brush and debris was to burn it as the logging proceeded, and this system was carried out this season.

Under the direction of Supervisor Marshall, the Ranger on the Minnesota National Forest with the cooperation of the Great Northern Railroad section foremen, burned the dry grass along the railroad "right of way" early in the spring soon after the snow had gone, and while the forest floor protected by the forest cover along side the "right of way" was still damp enough so that the fire would not run in the forest. This "Ounce of Prevention" has apparently been of great service in preventing the starting of fires along the "right of way" by the passing trains, and there had been practically no forest fires on the reserve this season.

By request of member of the "Commercial Club" in Cass Lake, I met men who manufacture crates and boxes. I told them the reserve would be growing a supply of timber for use....apparently this turned the scale and they decided to locate their plant at Cass Lake. I also took particular pains on this occasion to explain that 10 percent of the receipts of National Forests went to counties in which they were located. This had a very noticeable effect and I believe....many of these people who have formerly opposed the Forest Service will lend their influence to aid in having the boundary line delineated this coming session of Congress.

My examination of operations of the Minnesota National Forest convinced me that the men looking after this work have been attending to their business thoroughly, while the apparent state of feeling exists between them and the purchasers and contractors inclines me to believe that they have also been diplomatic in their discussion with the different operators. The Supervisor's Office records showing the five per cent of timber reserved, and in fact everything which came under my observation seems to be in satisfactory shape.

Very respectfully, E.S. Bruce, Expert Lumberman.

Chippewa National Forest

200 Ash Avenue NW · Cass Lake, MN 56633 (218) 335-8600 www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/chippewa





*On the Cover: (top) Minnesota Federation of Womens Groups were key to the formation of the Forest Reserve in 1902. (middle) Forest Staff in 1946. (bottom) Forest Staff in 2006 — just a few of the 143 full time employees on the National Forest.





Norman L. Wagoner

From the Forest Supervisor

If you did a quick survey of Chippewa National Forest employees and asked about the number of community-based projects they are working on, the numbers would be staggering. As we celebrated the Forest Service Centennial year in 2005, we also celebrated our energetic employees and the diverse local partners who work with us to continue the mission of Caring for the Land and Serving the People.

Chippewa National Forest employees become leaders and members of community groups, assisting with Wildfire Protection Plans or city design teams. Area committees benefit from

Forest partnership through legislation, including the MN Transportation Equity Act funds that will build the Cass Lake Visitor Rest Area. Our community interactions are award winning! The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials named the Highway 38 design for their Best Project Award. Cut Foot Sioux Horse Camp was named one of the Top 25 Horse Trails by Trail Rider magazine. The Cass Lake Partners group received a Regional Forester's Honor Award for "Working Together Partnerships", one of the highest citations given in Region 9 of the Forest Service.

We are building strong lasting partnerships at all levels of government. In 2005, work began with three counties, Minnesota DNR and Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe to work on OHV designation of roads and trails in and surrounding the National Forest. For the Forest, this will lead to the development of an OHV use map by 2008, incorporating comments from open houses and other meetings hosted by the multi-agency work group.

Work continues on the Reservoir Operating Plan Evaluation (ROPE) with Minnesota DNR, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Corps of Engineers and Power Companies to recommend a systemwide operating plan for the Mississippi Headwaters. Combined agencies also took to the field to pull acres of non-native invasive weeds, protect fishery habitat and track threatened species such as lynx and goshawk on the Forest.

With the 2005 hurricane season, we found a new definition of community. Crews from the Chippewa brought a lot of heart along with their skills to the people of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. Chippewa National Forest firefighters worked in evacuee centers, brought much needed supplies to devastated local rescue crews, and helped families find each other from across the country.

This past year saw the new Forest Plan upheld after a Washington Office review of appeals –a very notable event internally

that allows us to move forward and build partnerships as we implement the plan. Last spring, we kicked off our Centennial Celebrations by recognizing 100 years of Forest Service history, honoring the contributions of current and former employees. Over 160 Forest employees joined retirees and community leaders to celebrate *their* history as members of the Chippewa National Forest family. In this Annual Report, we highlight the many ways people contribute to their national forest—are you a partner?

James Lyn



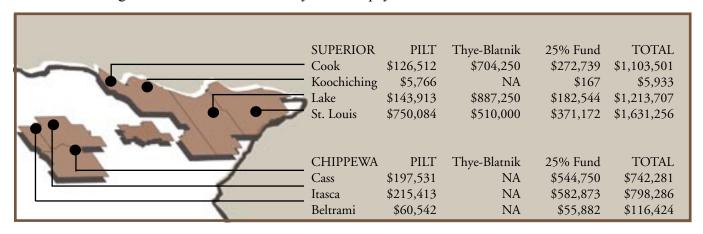
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Payments to Counties

Seven Minnesota counties received a total of \$5.6 million from the Forest Service in 2005. These payments, called the 25% fund, Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Thye-Blatnik, are based on a formula of total Forest revenues, acres of National Forest and population within the counties. These funds have provided revenues to counties to compensate for the lost tax base of federal lands since 1922.

Congress passed the Secure Rural School and Community Self-Determination Act in 2000, allowing counties a choice in receiving payments that were implemented in 2001. Itasca, Cass and Lake (SNF) Counties chose a stable payment until 2006. Beltrami County and Koochiching, St. Louis and Cook Counties (SNF) decided to continue receiving 25% of Forest revenues. Thye-Blatnik payments tie with Wilderness Areas.



2005 Accomplishments

200) Accomplishments						
TIMBER Harvested (Million Board Feet)	WILDLIFE/FISHERIES Terrestrial Habitat Restored/Enhanced (Acres)					
HUMAN RESOURCESSenior Employment49Volunteers62Youth Conservation Corps8Full Time Employees143Campground Visitors500,000Visitors at Centers/Offices10,000Seasonal/Temp Employees55	LANDSRight-Of-Way Cases8Special Use Permits (Total)649Land Acquisition (Acres)0Mineral Permits (Issued)70Boundary Management14Total Nat'l Forest Acres666,541Total Acres Within Boundary1,599,660					
FIRE and FUELS Prescribed Burns (Acres)	ENGINEERINGRoad Maintenance (Miles)349Road Improved (Miles)4.2Road Decomissioned (Miles)13.2Deferred Maintenance (Miles)2Priority 1 Trails Maintained (Miles)167					





People of Moss Lake Passport In Time Project

It's no surprise that the Forest Service Centennial would have people looking back into history to learn about the formation of the Chippewa National Forest, celebrating significant moments on the "timeline". One such moment was the birth of the PassPort in Time (PIT) program. Now a national program, PIT had its quiet beginning on the Chippewa with the "Spirit of the Headwaters" site in the late 1980's. In 2005, the Forest participated in its 14th consecutive year with the PIT program, with 33 volunteers signing up to delve into the prehistory of Moss Lake.

The Moss Lake site contains remains of early occupations of the Mississippi Headwaters area dating from about 800 to 3000 years ago. During this time period, people developed the use of pottery, expanded the use of wild rice resources, and began building burial mounds. Work at Moss Lake answered questions about when, why and how people used this area and added to knowledge of how people responded to changing environmental conditions.

The site turned out to be filled with exciting discoveries for the PIT volunteers. Early tools, arrowheads and beautifully decorated pottery were just some of the items uncovered.

Among the most notable discoveries:



- An unusual kind of pottery call Sandyota which blends characteristics of Sandy Lake and Oneota, usually found in southern Minnesota.
- Another ceramic type not found often called St. Croix pottery. It is characterized by comb and dentate stamp decoration and a high vertical rim. This dates around

300-1600 A.D. and again is usually found to the south.

• The size and complexity of the site. Shovel tests indicated that the site is much larger than we expected.

Volunteers excavated portions of the site to provide data, while other volunteers worked to catalog artifacts in the lab. Consultation with the Tribal Historic Preservation Office to reach consensus on the site's eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places will be the next step. Having gleaned a few hints of the potential of the site, Moss Lake will most likely be nominated for the 2006 PIT project. For more information on digging into Forest history, contact the

PIT Clearinghouse at 800-281-9176 or visit their website at www.passportintime.com



Sample of points for at the PIT project site



PIT volunteers work at the Moss Lake site



An Award Winning Forest Drive

It's the equivalent of winning an "Oscar" for those in the Highway and Transportation world. And the 2005 award winner for Best Project was..... The Edge of the Wilderness National Scenic Byway on the Chippewa National Forest. This national award from the Ameri-

can Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials (AASHTO) was presented during the 2005 Best Practices Competition held in Nashville, Tennessee.

The central character in this story is the beautiful stretch of Highway located between Grand Rapids and Effie, Minnesota. Forty-seven miles of roadway meandering around lakes and wetlands, and through the Minnesota northwoods stood out from 75 entries for its extraordinary development and reconstruction of the Chippewa National Forest

Bigfork R. Bigfork

Edge of the Wilderness National Scenic State Park

Edge of the Wilderness National Scenic Byway

Count Lakes Sear Lake

Lake Lake Lake Lake Lake Lake Lake Overlook

Sand Lake Lake Lake Lake National Scenic Station

Scenic Turtle Lake Nate Lake Nathington State Forest

Scenic Togo

Owen & Lost Lakes Bear Lake

Turtle Lake Nathington State Forest

Scenic Toyor Develook

Laurentian Divide Spider Lake Toyor Lake

State Forest

Scenic Togo

Washington State Forest

Scenic Togo

Nathington State Forest

Lake Black Black Washington State Forest

State Forest

Lake Spider Lake Till Annex Mine State Fark State F

The public and interagency working groups strived to develop solutions, not only for the transportation system, but also for managing land adjacent to the highway. The effort resulted in a completely coordinated schedule of improvement projects for a whole corridor,

> including transportation, recreation, water quality, and economic development

A history of longterm interagency collaboration with the Highway 38 Leadership Board, the North Itasca Joint Powers Board, the Chippewa National Forest, Minnesota Department of Transportation, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources also led to the award. For more than a decade, Chippewa staff worked with these groups and the Minnesota Department of Transportation in

Minnesota Trunk Highway 38.

Highway 38 was originally developed in the 1920's to replace a parallel logging railroad. Seventy years later, faced with the need to reconstruct the aging highway, the Minnesota Department of Transportation was approached by an interagency group to begin a new design process for the corridor. The resulting reconstruction project balances safety, mobility, environmental and community values.

the planning, design, and reconstruction of this exceptional transportation improvement.

With more than half of the Byway now improved, the final 20 miles are currently awaiting project funding. The Chippewa staff will be involved the entire way, and are proud to accept the award on behalf of the USDA Forest Service during the Centennial year!



Looking into the MIST

Since 2002, six Forest employees in the Marcell/Deer River area have been working in a MIST. Not as mysterious as it sounds, MIST stands for Monitoring, Inventory and Survey Team, and this MIST crew has had the daunting task of gathering data pertaining to Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive (TES) species on the entire Forest. The species information they assemble is entered into a computerized mapping system (GIS) and used in all areas of forest planning and implementation. Foresters, biologists and recreation planners rely on this accurate data to help them assess regarding forest management activities.

Over the last year, our adventurous MIST gathered information on over 140 new TES locations. With 10 additional locations waiting confirmation, and 13 up for review from the historic record, the new total could be up to 163 locations documented. Adding 163 additional threatened and endangered species of plants, birds, mammals, reptiles, insects, fish, and mollusks is an impressive run for a group working together for just three years. Most of the inventories and surveys are done in the summer months while the winter is spent assessing habitat, monitoring

projects in relation to the forest plan and conducting surveys. Surveys on TES species are completed before activities such as timber sales or road building can begin on national forest lands. It is then decided whether the planned activity can be implemented without doing irreparable damage to any TES species in that location. In some cases, management activities may be deferred or modified because of the presence of a TES species.

Private contractors assist with surveys, and MIST ensures that contracts are specific enough to obtain accurate results. For example, a songbird call survey must be conducted very early in the morning. Conducting a survey too early in the season, or too late in the day, would produce inconclusive results. Two of the bigger benefits of MIST are the 40% reduction in Unit costs since MIST began and the continued discovery of previously unknown species on Chippewa National Forest lands. Two new species of plant, American Speedwell and Squirrel Corn, were found recently on the Forest! Learn more about these species or the 163 new TES locations by surveying our Forest website at www.fs.fed. us/r9/forests/chippewa.







Checking in with TES species in 2005

Bald Eagle Count in 2005	153
Black Sandshell Mussel	15 sites (live)
Goblin Fern Sites	176
Pugnose Shiner	5 sites on different lakes
Goshawk nests	.78 total nests/17 active nests
Canada Lynx Sightings	4 (w/in or near Forest)
Four-toed Salamander	6 locations
Yellow Rail	27 locations
Bird Species Monitored o	n CNF54











Hurricane Season

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall just east of New Orleans and moved north into Mississippi as a Category 4 Hurricane with winds exceeding 150mph, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and East Texas took the brunt of the winds, rains, tornadoes and flooding that followed. Across the country, people saw the stories and wanted to help in some way. On the Chippewa, there was a group of people who knew they could help, and they went south.

The stories this group came back with are heart-wrenching and spirit-lifting...and intriguing. This article only touches on a small percent of the experience from the Hurricane Katrina emergency efforts. More detailed stories of the lives forever changed, both hurricane victims and for our firefighters, can be found on the Forest website. Now well into 2006, firefighters continue to travel south to help in the recovery effort, working on the southern national forests and in the communities to provide assistance with hurricane destruction and fight wildfires that threaten those communities today.



John Rickers Montgomery, Alabama

Worked from a FEMA field office with a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) crew helping to locate and track people dispersed by the hurricanes. The information put together by this crew helped get families together and get emergency assistance to individuals.



Gary Roerick/Tracy Beck San Antonio/Houston, Texas

As Division Supervisors, Gary Roerick and Tracy Beck were sent to Texas to oversee two major evacuation centers in San Antonio. Twelve thousand evacuees came in from New Orleans, along with truckloads of supplies, and an unprecedented line of volunteers. Keeping track of it all was their job.



Mitch Bouchonville Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Georgia

As an Incident Command resource, Mitch tracked multiple fire crews and resources over four states, ensuring their safety and making sure they had the right tools for the job. Those jobs included everything from clearing state park trails to removing hazard trees from neighborhoods. Mitch often worked as liaison between relief agencies and community leaders. He has returned to the south on three details since last September.



"It was a life changing event, very stressful at times, but so many small moments where people did remarkable things for each other." After the San Antonio evacauation shelter was closed, Tracy also helped Hurricane Rita evacuees, helping 2000 people from Houston find safety.



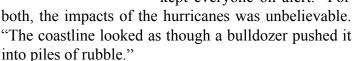
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Ron Rockis/Paul Valento Waveland, Mississippi



As a Resource Unit Leader, Ron worked with a ICS Type 1 Team at the Stennis Space Center. His team's job was receiving and distribution of supplies coming to the base. Each day, dozens of airplanes and thousands of trucks brought in supplies of water, food and clothing. Each day, these supplies would be moved out to the people from the surrounding communities who desperately needed assistance. Paul Valento came to Stennis on a Security detail, and immediately prepared for Hurricane Rita, moving 300 people from the "tent city" into safer quarters nearby. Tornados rolling off the hurricane kept everyone on alert. For





Walker Fire Crew; Pearlington, Mississippi

Mike Rice, Chad Gruszka, Linda Roberts, Jon Hanson, Aaron Graham, and Wade Sandstrom were part of the MIFC Type 2 1A Crew that was first to leave from Minnesota to the southern states. They began at the Stennis Space Center Base Camp moving truckloads of supplies for hurricane victims. By their second week, they were clearing trees in hard hit neighborhoods of Pearlington and Diamond Head, clearing hazards and helping people safely move around their communities. The Walker Engine Crews did rotating details to Hammond, Louisiana from December to March 2006 to assist with the initial attack on wildfires.



Steve Frick Beaumont, TX

Steve was assigned to the Ford Park Convention Center in Beaumont, which had been set up as a Base Camp to ship supplies out to hurricane-stricken areas in southeast Texas. His team worked to ensure generators, pumps and other supplies

got out to those who needed them most. For Steve, the cooperation between government and non-government agencies was impressive, with groups cooking and delivering up to 8000 meals a day for hurricane survivors. Steve returned to the south for two additional details.



Kent Ledermann New Orleans, Louisiana

Initially sent to a mobilization center in Arkansas, Law Enforcement Officer Kent Ledermann soon found himself at the New Orleans Airport as a Security Manager with the Incident Management Team Base Camp. Escorting people and vehicles at the airport

and into the city, Kent saw the once vivid New Orleans flooded and devoid of people. "Even though you knew the city had been evacuated, to see the buildings and streets without people was striking."

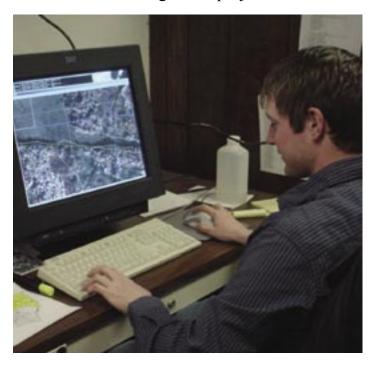


Walk the Line: Stand Line Maintenance

In 1989, Forest employees were using (and scowling over) a now-antiquated computer system known as the DG. We used glue sticks and scissors to put clip art into our Annual Report, and the timber staff sat at tables, hand drawing lines on mylar overlays to note timber stand types.

From what seems 100 years ago, we have graduated to mega-memory computers, web design, and Geographic Information Systems, including color infrared photography, a centralized Data system, and techno-saavy college students who can deliniate timber stand types with a click of a mouse.

In 1990, when stand lines were hand drawn and tediously transferred by contracts to management files, it was easy to slip the mylar layer off line and move timber stand lines way off the mark. These seemingly small mistakes have often slowed Forest management projects.



Bemidji State University Student Darrell Nucech works on the Land Line program in the Chippewa GIS Shop.



In 2005, Forest timber staff teamed up with the map pros in GIS to begin a process of correcting out-of-date or incorrect stand data. The stand line maintenance project, now in its 2nd year, has GIS staff bringing in a digital layer of recent infrared photography of the Forest and placing that layer behind the lines drawn in the 1990's. At that point, they can make corrections on the computer to match what shows on the maps, pulling the lines over to show the accurate boundaries. Once the initial GIS work is complete, the timber staff double-checks stand type and size density, and sends it back to GIS for final corrections. Now complete, the updated stand lines are ready for use by every planning team, as well as other land management agencies.

Though this is also time consuming in the correction phase, the process ensures accuracy and becomes a strong foundation for all planning projects on the Forest. Over two-thirds of the Forest stands has been verified through this land line process, with completion of the entire Forest stand line edits expected in 2006.



Northern Roads



Among the many fishing traditions in Minnesota, the December 1st Northern Pike spearing opener is tops among many Lake Winnie fans. For many years, spear fisherman set out along the northern end of Lake Winnibigoshish, looking both for the fish and access to the big lake. Often, access came at a price--deeply rutted tote roads, wetland resource damage, impacts to the fishery the fisherman so value. One of these high-use roads was an old Forest Service logging road that was no longer being maintained.

The Minnesota DNR, tracking the spearing season, was aware of the high use on the north end of Winnie. The Chippewa National Forest was equally aware that the high use was causing significant resource damage. With this information, the two agencies began a cooperative project to resolve the problem.

In 2002, public scoping led to a decision to create a winter access road over the old logging road. By September 2002, the project started, but weather halted the project during 2003. In 2004, the work began again falling on the spear fishing opener.

With over 80 vehicles near the site during construction, cooperation between the fisherman and engineers was crucial to keep everyone safe. Fisherman utilized ATV's the first two days, recognizing the improved access would be worth the effort. After 500 hours of work between agencies, the access was completed and another spearing season was off and running.

If you visited the site prior to 2002, you would have found deep ruts along the old road and into the wetland. On December 1, 2005 you would find over 100 vehicles along the smooth snowy route stretching toward the lake ice and the northern pike of Winnibigoshish.

From a resource standpoint, the area is still within a riparian area, and though winter use on the improved road is a positive example of a cooperative land use project, it's also important to note that the Forest Service mandated the road closed in summer months. Education efforts ensure that Forest Visitors understand why the road is gated from March to December and communication with Minnesota DNR and Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe ensure further protection of the resource.



Access road on Spearing Opener



A Burning Desire

When the National Fire Plan was finalized in 2001, the high priority was to develop community wildfire protection plans. The Healthy Forest Restroration Act of 2003 asks communities to provide input on where federal agencies implement fuel reduction projects on federal land and how additional funds may be distributed for projects on non-federal lands. A Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is the key.

Local wildfire protection plans can take a variety of forms, based on the needs of those involved in their development. Communities within the Chippewa National Forest have all started the process of developing a CWPP. In Beltrami County on the northern edge of the Forest, the first step began with a meeting of the area stakeholders. This included the Fire Chief, a Regional "Firewise" Representative, a DNR Forester, the Beltrami Emergency Management Director and the Forest Service Fire Management Officer working in that county.

Community Wildfire Protection Plans are funded with National Fire Plan dollars, but the initiative for the process comes from the local community. For Beltrami County, this means work at the rural Fire Department level. For Itasca County, work is being done from a county level, similar to Lake and Cook Counties, both on the Superior National Forest.

Once a group is formed, they begin to identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments. Federal and state fire management officers become technical advisors, and can recommend types and methods of treatment that may protect at-risk communities and infrastructure. Local communities in northern Minnesota have found that this is a large step that demands support from all land management agencies involved.

Over the next year, Itasca and Beltrami Counties will work toward completing the CWPP, while also increasing education efforts within the communities. The Walker District has initiated discussion with local fire entities, and is in the beginning stages of collaboration. At this stage, "Firewise" programs also become an important part of the overall effort as they teach homeowners how to reduce wildfire danger around their homes and forest lands. Communities already participating in the Firewise program may have an acceptable Wildfire Protection Plan, or have tools to move them toward a finished plan.

The "Firewise" program in Minnesota provides 50/50 grants for projects such as identifying wildfire threats in the community, placement of underground water storage tanks (dry hydrants) and hazard tree removal, fuel reduction, GIS mapping and education. Over the past two years, over \$2 million dollars in grants have been presented to 200 communities across the state. To get involved in your communities efforts for the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, contact your local township, city or county officials.

Chippewa Fire Management Personnel on Your Forest

6	# of Full/Part Time Fire Management Personnel	<u></u>	13
	# of Seasonal/Short-time Fire Personnel		
6	# of Forest Service Personnel Assisting with		
	Pre-Suppression or Suppression		51
•	# of New Casual Firefighters hired in 2005		8
4	# of Fire & Fuels Education Programs presented	in 2005	67







Patrolling the Forest

They travel by truck, snowmobile, four-wheeler, foot, boat and canoe, and cover over 1.5 million acres of land within the National Forest

Boundary. In 2005, the Forest welcomed over 2.7 million visitors. Chippewa National Forest Law Enforcement Officers reported 675 incidents in 2005. Ever wonder what these officers are finding when patrolling? Here's a sample of the past year, in order of most incidents/violations reported:

Offense:
Construct or Maintain Improvement
(Tree Stands and Trails)
Dumping Refuse or Garbage
Possess Or Use Vehicles Off Road
Cutting or Damaging Tree or Timber
Using Vehicle on Road Closed by Order
Damage to Property or Natural Feature
Causing Timber, Tree or Brush to Burn
Failure to Pay Recreation Fee
Hunting, Trapping Fishing in Violation
Removing Any Natural Feature
(Gravel)

^{*}Includes Reports, Warnings and Violation Notices

Alongside the investigations of illegal activities, there are an equal number of partnerships between Forest Law Enforcement officers and the community. Each year, Forest officers teach state firearms safety courses, as well as snowmobile and ATV safety courses to area students. Those high profile law enforcement trucks are seen in front of local schools, teaching safety and giving kids a chance to get to know the officers.



Law Enforcement officers talk with local citizens about Forest roads and trails.

For additional information, complete and return the information request form

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION					
		New OHV Regulations	□ Biking □ Forest Maps - 1/2"(\$4) or 3/8" scale (\$6 ea) □ Lake States Interpretive Catalog □ Wildflower/Weeds Brochure		
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Chippewa National Forest: Centennial Events





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